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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

TRANSMITTING, IN OBEDIENCE

TO A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

OF

THE TWENTY-SIXTH ULTIMO,

SUNDRY

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE DESTRUCTION

OF

THE NEGRO FORT IN EAST FLORIDA,

IN THE

MONTH OF JULY, 1816.

FEBRUARY 1, 1819.

Read, and ordered to lie upon the table:

WASHINGTON:

PRINTED BY E. DE KRAFFT.

1819.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

February 1st, 1819.

SIR,

In obedience to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the United States, of the 26th ultimo, I have the honor to transmit, herewith, two series of papers, designated A, numbered 1 to 6; and B, numbered 1 to 4, inclusively; which contain all the information in possession of this Department, having relation to the subject of said resolution.

I have the honor to be,

With the highest respect, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

SMITH THOMPSON.

*The honorable the Speaker,**House of Representatives.*

A.—No. 1.

(Copy.)

*Navy Department,
June 6th, 1815.*

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th of April last, with those of the 11th and 12th ultimo, and am gratified to learn by the latter, that, with the recent addition to the force under your command, you will be able to protect the commerce of New Orleans, as well against the pirates of Barrataria, as against the lawless conduct of those sailing under Carthaginian and Mexican flags.

Towards vessels sailing under these flags which may appear to be regularly licensed, or commissioned, by their respective governments for legal purposes, you will exercise a sound discretion, and endeavor, as far as practicable, to restrain and prevent their irregular and vexatious procedures, without committing on them any act of force, unless the procedure shall be against vessels of the United States, or within the jurisdictional limits of the United States, which include the marine league, or you shall have good reason to believe that the flags are used by them only with the view of disguising a piratical character; in which case you will seize and bring them into port, to be dealt with according to law. Should they be in connexion with the Barratarians, effectual measures for this purpose will be the more necessary.

I am, &c.

B. W. CROWNINSHIELD.

*Com. D. T. Patterson,**U. S. Navy, New Orleans.*

A.—No. 2.

(Copy.)

*Navy Department,
September 8th, 1815.*

SIR,

Your letters of the 21st July last, have been submitted to the President of the United States, and duly considered by the Secreta-

ries of the Treasury and Navy, and by the attorney general. The president directs an additional force to be employed against the corsairs, pirates, and smugglers, which is preparing to proceed off the Mississippi, and to be placed under your command.

In the employment of all the naval force, you will be governed by the general instructions of this Department, of the 6th June last, and give such orders to the commanding officers of the several vessels, as shall most effectually check and suppress all lawless depredations upon our commerce, and all violation of our revenue laws. Considering the disguised character under which the pirates have attempted to evade the punishment of crimes, you will be justified and supported by your government in bringing in all, under suspicious circumstances, for examination, and for libel and trial, where cause shall appear. You will see by the copies enclosed the opinions of the attorney general and Secretary of the Treasury, upon several points of your letter, and which you will consider sufficient authority, to govern you in all proceedings connected therewith. Instructions have been, or will be issued from the Treasury Department to the district attorney, to defend you in all causes brought before the court, and to expedite the decisions thereon.

I am respectfully, &c.

By order of the Secretary of the Navy,

(Signed) BENJAMIN HOMANS.

Capt. Daniel T. Patterson,

Commg. Naval Officer, New Orleans.

A.—No. 3.

(Copy.)

Navy Department,

September 9th, 1815.

SIR,

Enclosed you will receive the copies of the President's proclamation of the 1st instant, one of which is attested by the Department of State.

The President directs me to request your active and vigilant co-operation, with the civil and military authorities of the United States, to carry into effect the spirit and intention of this proclamation. You will immediately issue orders in conformity to all the officers commanding vessels of the United States, within the limits of your command, and enjoin the strict observance and execution of the several duties as therein pointed out, and to deliver over all offenders to the civil authorities for trial.

I am very respectfully, &c.

By order of the Secretary of the Navy,

(Signed) BENJAMIN HOMANS.

Daniel T. Patterson, Esq.

Commg. Naval Officer, New Orleans.

A.—No. 4.

(Copy.)

Navy Department,

December 8th, 1815.

SIR,

I have received your several letters of September 29th, and November 10th, which have remained unanswered from the pressure of public business. The affairs of the station, and the good management of the naval force under your command, are intrusted to your sound judgment and vigilance. You will endeavor to restrain the commanders of gun boats and other vessels from committing any unnecessary violence upon the rights of others, and not to harass those vessels whose objects and pursuits appear to be honest and lawful, while breaches of the revenue laws, and unequivocal acts of piracy must be brought under the cognizance of the courts of law with promptness and vigor. The United States brig Saranac, Lieutenant commandant John H. Elton, is ordered to report to you for such service as may be required. She will leave New York in a few

days for Mobile, with a detachment of United States officers and men, and will remain upon the station for the protection of the coast and commerce until the next spring, or until further orders from this Department.

I am respectfully, &c.

(Signed)

B. W. CROWNINSHIELD.

Capt. D. T. Patterson,

Commg. Naval Officer, New Orleans.

A.—No. 5.

(Copy.)

Navy Department,

January 22, 1816.

SIR,

Your letter of November 22d, has been received, and the subject submitted to the consideration of the President.

The plan you propose is objectionable, so far as it might produce a collision with some of the powers in the present state of the Spanish colonies; it is therefore desirable to preserve, as far as possible, the most amicable relations with them all; and to be cautious in giving cause of complaint by any interference in their commercial or political affairs. Such arrangements as your prudence may dictate in promoting a friendly intercourse, will be approved by this Department, as well as every precaution for the security of our revenue, and protection from the piratical depredations heretofore practised within the limits of your command.

I am very respectfully, &c.

(Signed)

B. W. CROWNINSHIELD.

Com. D. T. Patterson,

Commg. Naval Officer, New Orleans.

A—No. 6.

(Copy.)

*Navy Department,
October 5th, 1816.*

SIR,

Your two letters of August 15th, enclosing copies of the report of operations of two gun vessels, under sailingmaster Loomis; schedule of stores taken after the destruction of the fort upon the Apalachicola; with copies of your correspondence with the military commanding officer, have been received. The importance of the transaction alluded to, and the question of the legal disposition of the property, induced me to transmit the papers entire to the President of the United States, as well for his information, as for the necessary instructions in reply, to govern you in the course most proper to be pursued. The subject involves various and interesting points of national jurisdiction, jurisprudence, and national policy; which will be brought before Congress at their next session, as requiring legislative decision, over which the executive power has no direct or exclusive control. Under these circumstances you are directed to have the property securely deposited under your immediate superintendence and protection. A complete inventory must be taken of every article, and an appraisement by competent and judicious persons, made out and transmitted to this department. Perishable articles, upon survey and being found so, may be sold at public auction, and the proceeds deposited to meet such order as Congress shall take respecting the whole. Such articles as the public service shall necessarily require, may be taken for its use, after appraisement, and receipt given therefor. The papers and documents relative to which, you will transmit with the inventory.

In the present state of the case, I do not feel authorized to express an opinion (or official sanction) of the proceedings, in anticipation of the course which Congress in its wisdom may deem proper to adopt; although the conduct of the naval officers engaged in this expedition, appears to justify a belief of their having performed their duty with their usual spirit and gallantry. Their claims to the property, and to the approbation of the President, will in due time come under consideration. The case in some respects is a new one, and the actual hostility on either part, cannot be considered as a lawful belligerent act, out of which would arise the right of prize of war. It will undoubtedly be competent to the government, to reward the merit of its naval and military officers according to the importance attached to the service. It may distribute among them the whole or a

part of the property brought off, in such proportions as may be judged proper; and every aid will be afforded you by this department, consistently with its duty.

I am, very respectfully, &c.

By order of the Secretary of the Navy,

(Signed)

BENJAMIN HOMANS.

*Commodore D. T. Patterson,
Commanding Naval Officer New Orleans.*

B—No. 1.

(Copy.)

New Orleans, June 19th, 1816.

SIR,

The enclosed despatch for lieutenant commandant Crowley, is transmitted under cover to you, lest he might not arrive at the Pass Christian, by the time the transports laden with ordnance, provision, &c. mentioned to you verbally, when here, shall arrive and be ready to proceed to their place of destination: in which case you will consider them as addressed to you, and act accordingly; in that event you will take under your command gun boat No. 154, together with the transports, and proceed in execution of those instructions. In the performance of the duties therein pointed out, it will be necessary to act with vigor and judgment; and you will refrain from any act of hostility against a Spanish force, or violation of their rights and laws. You will make no delay in your departure from the Pass Christian, after the arrival there of No. 154, and the transports.

Very respectfully, &c.

DAN'L. T. PATTERSON.

*Sailing Master Jairus Loomis,
Comm'dg. U. S. G. B. No. 149.*

(Copy.)

Fort Montgomery, May 22d, 1816.

SIR,

By a letter which I have received from lieutenant colonel Clinch, commanding a battalion of the 4th regiment infantry on the Chatahoochie, I learn that in the early part of the month, a party of Indians surprised and took from the immediate vicinity of his camp, two privates sent out to guard a drove of beef cattle, purchased for the subsistence of the troops. The cattle amounting to thirty head, were also taken; the Indians were pursued forty-five miles, on a path leading to Saint Marks; but being mounted, and having travelled all night, escaped with their prisoners and booty.

This outrage, preceded by the murder of two of our citizens, Johnson and M'Gasky, by Indians below the lines, and followed by certain indications of general hostility, such as the *war-dance*, and drinking of *war-physic*, leaves no doubt that we shall be compelled to destroy the hostile towns.

The detached situation of the post which I have ordered lieutenant colonel Clinch to establish near the Apalachicola, will expose us to great inconvenience and hazard in obtaining supplies by land, particularly in the event of war, as the road will be bad, and the distance from the settlement of Georgia near 150 miles.

Having advised with the commander in chief of the division, upon this subject, I have determined upon an experiment by water; and for this purpose have to request your co-operation. Should you feel authorized to detach a small gun vessel or two as a convoy to the boats charged with our supplies up the Apalachicola, I am persuaded that in doing so you will contribute much to the benefit of the service, and the accommodation of my immediate command in this quarter. The transports will be under the direction of the officer of the gun vessels, and the whole should be provided against an attack by small arms from shore. To guard against accidents, I will direct lieutenant colonel Clinch to have in readiness a boat sufficient to carry fifty men, to meet the vessels on the river, and assist them up.

Should you find it to be convenient to send a convoy, I will thank you to inform me of the date of its departure, and the time which, in your judgment, it will take to arrive at the mouth of the river Apalachicola.

Enclosed you will receive the best account I can give you, from the information I have received, of the Negro Fort upon the Apalachicola. Should we meet with opposition from that fort, it shall be destroyed; and for this purpose, the commanding officer above will be ordered to prepare all his disposable force to meet the boats at or

just below the fort, and he will confer with the commanding officer of the gun vessels upon the plan of attack.

I am, &c.

EDMUND P. GAINES,

Maj. Gen. by Brevet.

*Com. Daniel T. Patterson, U. S. Navy,
Commdg. New Orleans station.*

(Copy.)

New Orleans, 19th June, 1816.

SIR,

The enclosed copy of a letter from major general Gaines, commanding the United States military forces in the Creek nation, fully informs you of his situation, and his expectation of immediate commencement of hostilities on the part of those Indians. In consequence of the information contained in that letter, I have promised the convoy therein requested. You will therefore take under your command gun boat No. 149. and with that letter for your guide, convoy the transports with ordnance, provisions, &c. up the river Apalachicola and Chattahoochie, to such point or points as may be required, if practicable; should you meet with opposition from the Negro Fort, situated as stated in the letter, on the former river, the military commanding officer will have orders to destroy it; in which you will co-operate. The plan of attack to be concerted between yourself and him; the transports will be under your direction entirely. In the event of hostilities between the Indians and the United States, you will, if practicable, afford any aid with your vessels in your power to the army. Remain in that river and co-operate with them until it shall be necessary to return here for provisions; but if you cannot aid them in their operations, you will then return immediately, bringing with you the transports. The transports will rendezvous at the Pass Christian, and consist of the following vessels: schooner Semilante, laden with ordnance, and General Pike, laden with provisions.

By late information, the Negro Fort mounts only six pieces of cannon, with about one hundred men in and about it, planting corn; and I apprehend no opposition from them whatever, in the event of your remaining to act with the army; you will communicate with me by mail, through general Gaines. Should the boat, mentioned in general Gaines' letter, not meet you prior to your arrival at or near

the Negro Fort, and you have cause to expect opposition, you will wait her arrival before you attempt to pass it.

Very respectfully, &c.

DANIEL T. PATTERSON.

*Lieut. Comm'd't. Charles E. Crowley,
U. S. Cutter Fox.*

B—No. 2.

(Copy.)

New Orleans, August 15th, 1816.

SIR,

It is with great satisfaction I do myself the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the report of operations of two gun vessels, under the command of sailingmaster Jairus Loomis, despatched at the request of major general Gaines, commanding the United States' army in the Creek nation, to convoy two transports, laden with ordnance, stores, and provision, up the rivers Apalachicola and Chattahoochie, to Fort Crawford, for the use of the army; as also copies of the major general's letter to me, and of my instruction to Mr. Loomis.

You will perceive by Mr. Loomis' statement, that the unprovoked and wanton aggression committed by a party of negroes on his boats, as also their hostile disposition and conduct to the army, and the gun vessels, on their approaching the fort, evinced in the strongest manner, their intention to dispute his passage past their fort, rendered it necessary to silence their fire, and capture the fort. The very able manner, and short time, in which this was so effectually accomplished, with a force so very inferior, reflects the greatest credit upon Mr. Loomis, and the officers and men under his command; the ninth shot, and the *first hot one*, producing the explosion; and unless the fort had surrendered, or been destroyed, it would have been impossible for the army to have received those supplies of which they stood so much in need; and without which, their operations against the hostile Indians must necessarily have been materially retarded, if not totally suspended. And it was from the very great importance, as detailed by general Gaines, that those stores and provisions should reach the army in safety, that I felt it a duty incumbent on me, when thus called on, to afford the requisite convoy for their protection.

The service rendered by the destruction of this fort, and the band of negroes who held it, and the country in its vicinity, is of great and manifest importance to the United States, and particularly those states bordering on the Creek nation; as it had become the general rendez-

vous of runaway slaves, and disaffected Indians, an asylum where they were assured of being received; a strong hold, where they found arms and ammunition to protect themselves against their owners and the government. This hold being destroyed, they have no longer a place to fly to, and will not be so liable to abscond. The able manner in which this enterprise was conducted, cannot but impress the hostile Indians, also, with a dread of our arms, and increase the confidence of those who are friendly; add to which, that the force of the negroes were daily increasing, and they felt themselves so strong and secure, that they had commenced several plantations on the fertile banks of the Apalachicola, which would have yielded them every article of sustenance, and which would consequently, in a short time, have rendered their establishment quite formidable, and highly injurious to the neighboring states.

The English union jack, and red or bloody flags, under which they committed their unprovoked hostilities against the American flag, are in my possession; and I shall have the satisfaction of forwarding them to the department by the first safe conveyance. It appears very extraordinary, and remains with the English government to explain the authority for their flag being thus hoisted by a band of outlaws, as also their officer, colonel Nichols, having placed so strong a work, and with so large a supply of arms, (most of which were perfectly new, and in their cases) ammunition, and every other implement requisite to enable the negroes and Indians to prosecute offensive operations against the United States; in possession of negroes, too, known to be runaways from the United States, and that, too, some time after peace had taken place.

Herewith is transmitted a copy of the inventory of the articles saved from the explosion, designating those furnished the army for public use, and those brought off and deposited here.

I regret exceedingly the loss of Mr. Luffborough, killed in this service; who, though much indisposed, and having sent in his resignation to the department, very handsomely volunteered his services, and accompanied the expedition. Mr. Loomis reports his conduct in the highest terms of approbation.

I avail myself of this occasion, with great satisfaction, to recommend to the particular notice of the department, sailingmaster Jairus Loomis, and James Bassett, commanding the gun vessels on this expedition, as highly meritorious officers.

I cannot but lament, exceedingly, the great loss of lives occasioned by the destruction of the fort; though caused by their opposition to a passage of the river, and hostilities most wickedly commenced upon a friendly flag under which not the slightest aggression would have been offered them. The course pursued in this service, and the result, will, I trust, meet the approbation of the President of the United States.

I have the honor to be, &c.

DANIEL T. PATTERSON.

Honorable Secretary of the Navy.

(Copy.)

*Bay St. Louis, 13th August, 1846.**U. S. Gun Vessel, No. 149.*

SIR,

In conformity with your orders of the 24th June, I have the honor to report, that with this vessel and No. 154, sailingmaster James Bassett, I took under convoy the schooners General Pike and Semelante, laden with provisions and military stores, and proceeded for Apalachicola river, off the mouth of which we arrived on the 10th July: at this place I received despatches from lieut. col. Clinch, commanding the 4th regiment, United States infantry, on the Chatahoochie river, borne by an Indian, requesting me to remain off the mouth of the river, until he could arrive with a party of men to assist in getting up the transports, desiring me also to detain all vessels and boats that might attempt to descend the river.

On the 15th, I discovered a boat pulling out of the river, and being anxious to ascertain whether we should be permitted peaceably to pass the fort above us, I despatched a boat with an officer to gain the necessary information; on nearing her, she fired a volley of musketry into my boat, and immediately pulled in for the river; I immediately opened a fire on them from the gun vessels, but with no effect.

On the 17th, at 5 A. M. I manned and armed a boat with a swivel and musketry and four men, and gave her in charge of midshipman Luffborough, for the purpose of procuring fresh water, having run short of that article. At 11 A. M. sailing master Bassett, who had been on a similar expedition, came alongside with the body of John Burgess, O. S. who had been sent in the boat with midshipman Luffborough; his body was found near the mouth of the river; shot through the heart; at 4 P. M. discovered a man at the mouth of the river on a sand bar, sent a boat and brought him on board, he proved to be John Lopaz, O. S. the only survivor of the boats crew, sent with midshipman Luffborough: he reports that on entering the river, they discovered a negro on the beach, near a plantation; that Mr. Luffborough ordered the boat to be pulled directly for him; that on touching the shore he spoke to the negro, and directly received a volley of musketry from two divisions of negroes and Indians who lay concealed in the bushes on the margin of the river; Mr. Luffborough, Robert Maitland, and John Burgess, were killed on the spot; Lopaz made his escape by swimming, and states that he saw the other seaman, Edward Daniels made prisoner, Lopaz supposed there must have been forty negroes and Indians concerned in the capture of the boat.

On the 20th July, I received by a canoe with five Indians, despatches from colonel Clinch, advising that he had arrived with a par-

ty of troops and Indians, at a position about a mile above the Negro Fort, requesting that I would ascend the river and join him with the gun vessels; he further informed me, that he had taken a negro bearing the scalp of one of my unfortunate crew to one of the unfriendly Indian chiefs. On the 22d, there was a heavy cannonading in the direction of the fort; on the 23d, I received a verbal message from colonel Clinch, by a white man and two Indians, who stated that colonel Clinch wished me to ascend the river to a certain bluff, and await there until I saw him. Considering that by so doing in a narrow and crooked river, from both sides of which my decks could be commanded and exposed to the fire of musketry, without enabling me to act in my own defence, and also, that something like treachery might be on foot from the nature of the message, I declined acting, retained the white man and one of the Indians as hostages, and despatched the other with my reason for so doing to colonel Clinch; that his views and communications to me in future must be made in writing, and by an officer of the army. Lieutenant Wilson and thirteen men, joined me on the 24th, to assist in getting up with the transports; he likewise informed me that colonel Clinch had sent the canoe the day before.

On the 25th, I arrived with the convoy at Duelling Bluff, about four miles below the fort, where I was met by colonel Clinch; he informed me that in attempting to pass within gun shot of the fortifications, he had been fired upon by the negroes, and that he had also been fired upon for the last four or five days, whenever any of his troops appeared in view; we immediately reconnoitered the fort, and determined on a site to erect a small battery of two eighteen pounders, to assist the gun vessels to force the navigation of the river, as it was evident from their hostility, we should be obliged to do.

On the 26th, the colonel began to clear away the brushwood for the erection of the battery, he however stated to me, that he was not acquainted with artillery, but that he thought the distance was too great to do execution; on this subject we unfortunately differed totally in opinion, as we were within point blank range, he however ordered his men to desist from further operations; I then told him that the gun vessels would attempt the passage of the fort, in the morning *without his aid*. At 4 A. M. on the morning of the 27th, we began warping the gun vessels to a proper position; at 5, getting within gun shot, the fort opened upon us, which we returned; and after ascertaining our real distance with cold shot, we commenced with hot, (having cleared away our coppers for that purpose) the *first* one of which entering their magazine, blew up, and completely destroyed the fort. The negroes fought under the English Jack, accompanied with the red or bloody flag. This was a regularly constructed fortification, built under the immediate eye and direction of col. Nichol's of the British army, there was mounted on the walls, and in a complete state of equipment for service, four long 24 pounders, cannon, four long 6 ditto. one four pounder field piece, and a

5 1-2 inch brass howitz, with three hundred negroes, men, women, and children, and about 20 Indian warriors of the renegade Choc-taws; of these 270 were killed, and the greater part of the rest mortally wounded, but three escaped unhurt; among the prisoners were the two chiefs of the negroes and Indians. On examining the prisoners, they stated that Edward Daniels, O. S. who was made prisoner in the boat on the 17th July, was tarred and burnt alive; in consequence of this savage act, both the chiefs were executed on the spot by the friendly Indians.

From the best information we could ascertain, there were
2,500 stand of musketry, with accoutrements complete.

500 carbines.

500 steel scabbard swords.

4 cases containing 200 pair of pistols.

300 quarter casks of rifle powder.

162 barrels of cannon powder, besides a large quantity of military stores and clothing that I was not able to collect any account of, owing to an engagement made by colonel Clinch with the Indians, in which he promised them *all the property captured*, except the cannon and shot.

The property captured on the 27th July, according to the best information we could obtain, and at the lowest calculation, could not have been less than \$200,000 in value; the remnant of the property that the Indians did not take, was transported to Fort Crawford, and to this place, an inventory of which, I have the honor to transmit for your further information.

On sounding the river, I found it impassable for vessels drawing more than 4 1 2 feet water, consequently col. Clinch took the provision from the General Pike into flats, and lightened the Semelante, so as to enable her to ascend the river as high as Fort Crawford. On the 3d August, after setting fire to the remaining parts of the fort and village, I left the river, and arrived at this anchorage on the 12th current.

I cannot close this letter, without expressing to you my entire approbation of the conduct of sailing master James Bassett, commanding gun vessels, No. 154, for his cool, deliberate, and masterly conduct, and the support I received from him in all cases of difficulty and danger. In fact, sir, every officer and man *did his duty*.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

J. LOOMIS.

Commodore Daniel T. Patterson,

Commg. U. S. Naval forces, N. Orleans station.

B. No. 5.

(Copy.)

New Orleans, 15th August, 1816.

SIR,

With the letter of this date, transmitting the report of sailing-master J Loomis, I had the honor also to transmit a copy of the inventory of all the articles saved after the explosion; those delivered to the army were represented by col. Clinch to be necessary to the public service, the remainder are deposited here, and being somewhat at a loss in what light to consider them, I have to request of the Department their instructions relative to the disposal of them; if to be libelled and sold, or not, and if as prize of war, or captured from outlaws, and whether the articles of great value, which were taken by the friendly Indians acting with the army, under an agreement made by col. Clinch, and which could only affect property captured by his forces, and not at all apply to the navy, and as it appears by Mr. Loomis' statement the fort was destroyed, and this property captured from an infinitely superior force, by the navy alone, without any military co-operation whatever, the navy alone are entitled to all the proceeds arising therefrom. Mr. Loomis assented to the Indians taking those articles, from a persuasion that it was for the best interests of the government to do so, and to prevent any misunderstanding and discontent which would have resulted from their being deprived of what they considered by their agreement with lieut. colonel Clinch to be their right, not being capable of making a distinction between captures made by the army, and those made by the navy. This service having been achieved in so brilliant a manner, will, I trust, give entire satisfaction to the President of the United States and the Department, and the captors rely with the utmost confidence on the liberality and justice of the government for their reward, and that they will be allowed the value of the property furnished the army, and plundered by the friendly Indians attached to the army.

The approbation of my government in this service, will be highly gratifying to myself and officers.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) DANIEL T. PATTERSON.

The Hon. B. W. Crowninshield,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

(Copy.)

*Inventory of articles shipped on board the schooner General Pike, from
the Negro Fort to New Orleans, to say:*

Four 24 pr. iron cannon, four 6 pr. do. do. one 4 pr. field piece, 7 ship carriages for the first mentioned guns, 3 ammunition wagons, 502 muskets, good and bad, 1200 bayonets, 100 bayonet scabbards, 1810 cartouch boxes, 290 bayonet belts, 220 cartouch belts, 150 gun slings, 17 sword belts, 17 do. knots, 16 carbine belts, 33 buff straps, 22 haversacks, 75 set black accoutrements in 3 boxes, 2 small boxes of musket balls, 3500 gun flints, 5 cross cut saws, 1 whip ditto, 170 twenty-four pr. shot, 24 stand twenty-four pr. grape, 20 do. six pr. do. 17 canister 24 pr. 70 shells, 80 round six pr. shot, 2 boxes loose grape, 13 water casks, shooks with hoops and heads, one set harness for field, one lot copper hoops, one lot loose blocks.

(Signed)

J. LOOMIS, Com'dg.

(Copy.)

*Articles received by lieutenant colonel Clinch, for the use of his com-
mand, viz.*

One brass howitzer mounted complete, 26 spades, 48 shovels, 54 pick axes, one broad axe, one cooper's adz, 2 crow bars, 2 hoes, 120 pair shoes, one pair tin scales, one tacle fall and blocks, 2 cross cut saws, one cart, one cutter boat, 3 flats, 700 spikes, 460 old belts, 40 new carbond belts, 8 sword belts, 2 casks flints containing 20,000, 100 cartridge boxes, one box containing 20 muskets, one corn mill, 50 copper hoops, 4 sets harness, one set cart harness.

(Signed)

D. L. CLINCH,

U. S. 4th infantry, com'dg.

B.—No. 4.

(Copy.)

New Orleans,
September 6th, 1846.

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copies of letters which passed between sailingmaster Jairus Loomis, and an officer of his catholic majesty, relative to the destruction of the Negro Fort on the Appalachicola river, and the arms, &c. captured there: Mr. Loomis states to me, that the officer afterwards informed him, his demand was made without any authority from the governor of Pensacola, but simply upon his own, deeming it his duty so to do, expressing at the same time the pleasure he felt at the destruction of the fort, and the gratification it would afford to his government.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, &c.

DAN'L. T. PATTERSON.

The Honorable B. W. Crowninshield,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

(Copy.)

SIR,

The officer whom I sent on board the vessel under your command, having informed me that on the morning of 27th July last, you had taken and destroyed the fort of Appalachicola, in which were several negroes, runaways from Pensacola, and that the artillery, ammunition, &c. which belonged to said fort, had been embarked by you on board the vessels of the division under your command, I

consider it my duty to demand of you in the name of my government, all the artillery and ammunition which you have taken possession of, as belonging to a fortress established in the territory of his catholic majesty, which demand, I do not doubt you will accede to, considering the perfect harmony which exists between my government and that of the United States of America: I also request the favour of you to give me a circumstantial account of what occurred in the taking and destruction of the said fortress, in order that I may communicate the same to the governor of the province of West Florida. May God preserve you many years.

On board the schooner Maria, of Pensacola, at anchor
in the mouth of the river Appalachicola, 3d of
August, 1816.

BENIGNO GARCIA CALDERON.

J. Loomis.

(Copy.)

*U. S. S. G. Vessel, No. 149,
Apalachicola Bay, August, 5th 1816.*

SIR,

Yours of this date I have had the honor of receiving. As respects your demands I shall transmit them to the government of the United States.

The property captured on the 27th of July, 1816, on the Appalachicola river, in East Florida, I consider as belonging to runaway slaves, who had absconded from the United States and elsewhere, to protect themselves against their proper masters. The fort was defended under the English flag accompanied with the bloody flag, therefore I consider it my duty to hold the said property until I receive further instructions from the commanding naval officer of the New Orleans station.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. LOOMIS.

Benigno Garcia Calderon.

